



PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
December 2002 • Vol. 29, No. 12

439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Well, it has been one heck of a year for our Westover family. As we approach these holidays you need to know that you are the *shining* light for our country. Your performance at home and abroad has been second to none.

We have much to be thankful for this holiday season, not the least of which is, we are safe and sound today after the last year and the events on September 11. It is unknown at this time what the new year will bring and how it will impact each and every one of us. George Orwell once said, "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." Update that today and it is because of men and women like you that the citizens of our nation will continue to enjoy freedom and choice. Mary Jo and I wish you and your family the best this holiday season. Stay ready!

Thanks for all you do!



Col. Martin M. Mazick

by Col. Martin M. Mazick
439th Airlift Wing Commander

General Sherrard extends season's greetings to Air Force Reserve

by Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON — As we celebrate the holiday season and the start of 2003, let's take a moment to count the many blessings we enjoy.

We are blessed to live in a country where we are allowed to speak and write freely, where we can vote for the candidates of our choice and where we can worship in the way we want.

We are able to enjoy those freedoms, in part, thanks to your exceptional professionalism and devotion to duty. Your response to our nation's war on terrorism has been truly spectacular. You've stepped up to the challenge smartly, without hesitation. I personally want to thank you for all you've done to protect our nation. It's an honor to serve with you and a pleasure to celebrate your achievements of 2002. Your contribution to America is especially noteworthy and appreciated by a grateful nation.

Marsha and I wish each of you, wherever you might be in the world, the best during this holiday season. May you and your family find peace, joy and happiness as you continue to safeguard our country. God bless each of you, and God bless America.

(AFRC News Service)

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439th AW Commander
Col. Martin M. Mazick
Chief of Public Affairs/Co-editor
Gordon A. Newell
PA Air Reserve Technician/Co-editor
SSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe
Wing Public Affairs Officers
Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger
Maj. Wilson Camelo
NCOIC
SMSgt. Sandi M. Michon

Deputy NCOIC
MSgt. Tom N. Allocco
Illustrator/Webmaster
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Staff
TSgt. Andrew V. Reitano
SrA. T.R. Ouellette
Administration
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Nicole L. Lessard

Briefs

Firing range reminder

Westover's small arms range is off limits to unauthorized personnel, according to SMSgt. Michael F. Thorpe, superintendent of combat arms.

"Trespassing on the range is not only illegal, it is also dangerous because of live fire," said Thorpe. People with a need for valid entry to the range should contact the law enforcement desk at Ext. 3557.

Angel program lets wing members help their own

The Christmas Angel Tree program has opened for all 439th AW assigned personnel (reserve and Department of Defense civilians) and their families who need additional Christmas support. Sponsors interested in adopting an "angel" for Christmas will be provided the angel's gender, age, and a request for a special gift. The Family Support Center is the liaison between sign-ups and sponsors to ensure anonymity. Gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped.

Those interested are encouraged to call the center at Ext. 3024 or (866) 690-2161 (toll-free) to sign up. The center is located in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Avenue.

Industrial Gate traffic flow speeds A UTA commute

The morning commute to Westover is faster with a new policy to restrict traffic at the Industrial Gate on Westover Road to inbound-only for one hour each Saturday and Sunday of A UTA weekends.

No outbound traffic will be allowed at the Industrial Gate from 7-8 a.m. on Saturday and from 6:30-7:30 a.m. on Sunday of the A UTAs. The Fairview Gate at James Street will be open to people leaving the base during those hours.

December UTA schedule A UTA Dec. 7-8 No B UTA

Cover Photo

FINAL FLIGHT — A Boeing RB-47E fuselage is loaded into a 439th AW C-5 bound for Hill AFB, Utah (see article and additional photo on page 8).

— photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Congress funds new security forces building for Westover

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Money from Congress will soon fund a new \$3.85 million security forces building. Westover was among seven military installations within Air Force Reserve Command units to receive funding earmarked for base improvements.

Joseph G. Alfonso, 439th Civil Engineering programmer, said construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in July 2003 near Patriot Avenue and the CES readiness building. He said base officials had submitted the request for the new security building annually to Congress since 1995.



Lutz

The 439th Security Forces Squadron, now in its second year of activation for Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, is headquartered in Bldg. 1520, located between Hangar and Patriot Avenues. Built in 1941, it is one of the oldest buildings on base.

Because of the squadron's size and

the layout of the building, SFS members are spread out all over the base, said Maj. Mary Ann Lutz, SFS commander. "It's too small and inefficient," she said. "This (new building) will consolidate all of the security forces into one location." Besides Bldg. 1520, security police assets are cur-

rently housed blocks away on the southern side of the base in the DC Hangar and Hangar 7.

Alfonso said Bldg. 1520, a former base fire station, will not be torn down. Base officials have not decided on future use of the building.

Command receives \$67 million for military construction, additions

WASHINGTON — Eight Air Force Reserve Command unit locations are on tap to receive funds for major construction projects, alterations or additions as a result of the fiscal 2003 Military Construction Appropriations Act.

President George W. Bush signed the \$10.5 billion Department of Defense military construction package Oct. 23, which includes \$67.2 million for AFRC.

In his proposal to Congress in February, the president recommended \$31.9 million for the Air Force Reserve's MILCON program that covers the fiscal year from Oct. 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2003.

Part of the suggested budget included just under \$11.9 million for four major projects at Portland International Airport, Ore., to support conversion from a combat rescue to a KC-135 air refueling mission.

The President's budget also earmarked \$3.66 million for planning and design, \$5.16 million for unspecified minor construction, and \$11.9 million for command judgment funding.

In addition to tacking on another \$476,000 for planning and design and \$800,000 for minor construction projects, Congress inserted \$34 million for 11 more major projects.

The fiscal year 2003 MILCON Appropriations Act provides the funds to carry out programs, but the National Defense Authorization Act allows DOD to spend the money. The president signed the FY 2003 NDAA in late October.

(AFRC News Service)

Defense bill appropriates nearly \$3.4 billion for Air Force Reserve

WASHINGTON - Air Force Reserve Command is getting \$3.4 billion to operate and man the air reserve component, a \$300 million increase compared to last year.

President George W. Bush signed the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense Appropriations Act into law Oct. 23 during a White House ceremony. The bill allocates \$355 billion to all of DOD, \$37 billion more than last year.

During the ceremony, the president also signed the \$10.5 billion FY 2003 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which includes \$67.2 million for AFRC programs.

The president noted the security of the American people is the first commitment of the American government. "Our nation faces grave new dangers, and our nation must fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf," Bush said.

"We owe them every resource, every weapon and every tool they need to fulfill their missions," he said. "The best military in the world must have every advantage required to defend the peace of the world."

AFRC appropriations for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2003, permits a Selected Reserve end strength of 75,600 - 61,196 drilling reservists, 12,906 individual mobilization augmentees, and a full-time Active Guard and Reserve cadre of 1,498 members. Last year the command received funding for an end strength of 74,700, which included 1,437 AGRs.

This year's Defense Appropriations Act calls for a full-time

air reserve technician force of 9,911, an increase of 93 ARTs compared to last year.

Under the reserve personnel appropriation, the Air Force Reserve receives nearly \$1.2 billion to cover pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, travel and other related expenses. This year's RPA funds a pay hike of 4.1 percent for military personnel. Last year's RPA budget called for \$1.061 billion for the Reserve.

Another \$2.2 billion goes to operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and administer the command this year. O&M funds pay for flying hours, depot maintenance, repair of facilities and equipment, travel and transportation, civilian pay, recruiting, and communication, as well as procurement of services, supplies and equipment. Last year the command got an O&M budget of \$2.005 billion.

Although funded for in a separate account, the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard are to get \$12.5 million for Guard and Reserve equipment. This funding was not included in the president's budget proposal for FY 2003.

Congress adjusted AFRC funding recommended in the President's Budget proposal for FY 2003. The president had proposed \$3.434 billion to run AFRC and \$31.9 million for its MILCON program. After making funding realignment offsets, Congress deducted \$7 million from the RPA account and \$28.8 million from O&M funding but added \$35.3 million to MILCON spending.

(AFRC News Service)

AES members adapt to conditions in Pakistan, Afghanistan

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

A cup of good coffee brewed with ground beans sent from home can be the best thing in the world when you have been at a desert airfield long enough to forget simple luxuries. That's something members of the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron learned during rotations to Pakistan.

The AES members learned how to adapt and carry on the mission at forward operating locations close to the front lines of the war on terrorism. A seven-member team recently finished a 100-day tour in Pakistan and Afghanistan operating under primitive wartime conditions while performing command and control for the evacuation of patients to Europe and other locations.

The nurses, logistics and communications specialists were stationed at a Pakistani airfield used by Americans and allies. From the Pakistani base in a rugged desert part of the country, team members also deployed to Bagram AB outside Kabul, Afghanistan; Kandahar, Afghanistan; and a former Soviet air base in Uzbekistan.

Lt. Col. Anne Cole, director of aeromedical nursing services, headed the team of: Maj. Joseph G. Levesque, Capt. Mary Jane Cahill, CMSgt. James R. Brady, SMSgt. Ronald N. Beaulieu, TSgt. Melissa Tavilla and SSgt. Kevin Brady.

Reservists at home sought to bridge the distance. Westover sent "care packages" which were divided among everyone. TSgt. Joanna O. (Susi) Sheeran of wing plans sent the team packages of canned fruit, popcorn, coffee, candy and other treats. "We just wanted to make

"Everyone was extraordinarily flexible. They stepped up to the plate and did what had to be done."

**- Lt. Col. Anne Cole
439th AES**

them feel like they were at home," Sheeran said. "It's the least we could do."

"I really appreciated getting ground coffee. It's not just the coffee that makes



Courtesy photo

SWEATING IT OUT — Members of the 439th AES carry a "patient" during a U.S. Army exercise in Pakistan. The AES members are CMSgt. Jay Brady (front left), SSgt. Kevin Brady (right), and TSgt. Melissa Tavilla, back right. They were among seven squadron members deployed for 100 days.

a difference, but also knowing there is the support from home," Kevin Brady said.

On the day they arrived at the Pakistani airfield in June, the temperature hit 133 degrees and generally stayed at 120 degrees during the day. "Nobody would try to take a shower before 9 or 10 o'clock at night because during the day the water would be too hot from the sun," Cahill said.

Two hot meals were served daily, with lunch consisting of sandwiches. AES team members considered it a big upgrade in living conditions when plywood floors were put in their tents and a laundry tent with reliable machines was set up. During the last days in Pakistan, mattresses and TVs were arriving for the tents.

Another luxury everyone who has been to Bagram AB remembers is the view of the Milky Way without smog or light pollution. "I stepped out of my tent and almost fell over. I didn't know there were so many stars. Overwhelming," Tavilla said.

Kevin Brady worked with Army and Air Force transportation specialists and aerial porters to coordinate logistics from Europe to the forward theaters. His duties

included escorting deliveries to Bagram AB.

In a rugged environment that took a toll on land lines and computer networks, Levesque and Beaulieu maintained a satellite communications network. Tavilla built databases for a mission management program to assist medical crews in tracking missions and flight time.

Besides patient movement, the team, spearheaded by James Brady, developed an aeromedical evacuation training program with a Combat Search and Rescue C-130 unit. He also served as a senior NCO academy instructor, improvising with a machete for graduation ceremonies when no sword could be found.

The work of launching an aeromedical evacuation mission started long before the C-130 or C-17 engines fired up.

Cole worked with medical crews to coordinate their mission and update them on changes in equipment.

Levesque, Cahill and Tavilla were heavily involved in moving crews and

AES continued on next page

AES continued from page 4

equipment. The goal was to launch an aeromedical evacuation crew on one plane and recover another crew within 30 minutes. Most launch and recovery missions were conducted at night. When they were in Bagram it was done in total darkness. Team members became experts at driving using night vision goggles to navigate crude roads around the airfield. "Everyone was extraordinarily flexible. They stepped up to the plate and did what had to be done," Cole said.

Among the most impressionable experiences for team members was life at Bagram AB. "There was not a single building without bomb damage. On the side of the road we took to dinner there was a blown-up Soviet tank," Tavilla said.

At night, they could see the tracks of tracers from gunfire in the mountains. "Old tank treads served as speed bumps," Cole said.

"There were a lot of areas they couldn't clear of land mines, so it was just like when the Soviets left. They told us not to get off the road. Rocks on the side of the road were painted with one red side indicating an uncleared mine field," Tavilla said.

At Bagram, AES members trained in driving with night vision goggles by driv-

ing humvees and ATVs through an old Soviet tank and truck graveyard.

Westover's role in the war on terrorism was evident to team members. At Qatar they were given first class treatment by 42nd APS aerial porters. At Bagram, they met 439th SFS members. "We made sure to invite them for coffee if they wanted to hear a Massachusetts accent," Tavilla said.

Earlier in the year, Capt. William O. McGhee, MSgt. Robert B. Cossaboom and TSgt. Dawid D. Dybski served 90-day tours in Pakistan, coordinating aeromedical evacuation. McGhee also escorted medical equipment to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

For their first two weeks in Pakistan, they lived on field rations and worked in tents without air conditioning, with the temperature at 130 degrees.

After living at the desert base for awhile, a visit to the capital of Islamabad with palm trees, green vegetation and stucco houses seemed like grand vacation. "People lost a lot of weight. It was mentally challenging. There were no days off and every day seemed like a week," McGhee said of the first weeks before air conditioning and other improvements.



photo by SMSgt. Toby Molina

CHIEF'S WELCOME — CMSgt. Jay R. Brady and TSgt. Melissa Tavilla, 439th AES, return in a Westover C-5 from their deployment. Awaiting their arrival is CMSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin, 439th AW command chief master sergeant.

Website closes deployment gap for Westover family

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

Chicopee to Pakistan is many worlds and miles away, but a Westover spouse proved technology can help close the gap to only a mouse click away.

With his computer and a little knowledge of web page building, Paul Tavilla, husband of TSgt. Melissa Tavilla of the 439th AES, came as close as he could to a reunion by creating a website to chronicle Melissa's first deployment.

"There were many friends and family members interested in her deployment and concerned about Melissa's safety and extended separation from home," Tavilla said. "Rather than trying to send out group e-mails to several people on a regular basis it seemed easier for me to create a simple site that would keep people updated with photos and information."

Located at <http://members.aol.com/ptav670299/index.htm>, the site provided

updates on her mission supporting the war on terrorism, showed how she spent her off-duty time and highlighted the local culture.

"It's too bad I was unable to show more of what she did, but security is first," said the former Army intelligence linguist who met Melissa nine years ago while they were both stationed in Monterey, Calif., at the Defense Language Institute.

Now that she's back from the deployment, the site boasts a large picture of her with a caption reading, "Melissa is home!!!"

The website idea was an utter surprise for the sergeant. "My first reaction was embarrassment, but then I realized that this was how he was showing his support and pride in me," Tavilla said of her husband. "I don't think anyone else had such a public display of support."

While Paul says the site was just something "fun to do" it's clear for that for him and their three-year-old son the web site helped close the miles separating the family.

"(Our son) dealt with her absence as

well as he could. Sometimes he was sad, other times angry and other times just took it in stride — not unlike my own reaction," he said.

The website helped Melissa Tavilla cope with the long separation from her family and workplace. "The site helped with my separation from my civilian employment," she said. "I think that my employer and co-workers had a better understanding of my military job and my deployment situation. A picture speaks a thousand words. I think it was easier for them to deal with my absence and the additional responsibilities brought to them once they could see what I was doing while away."

Now reunited, Paul said the site will likely be taken down at the end of the year as "it has served its purpose."

He added, "This deployment was a pretty big milestone in her Air Force career and the website was one way to make a big deal of it."

Questions and Answers

Q. Who will get the anthrax vaccine at Westover?

A. Any member who is going into a high-risk area for 15 consecutive days or longer.

Q. When will members who are deploying to a high-risk area receive the vaccine?

A. As soon as they know they are going to a high-threat area for more than 15 days. If they have received a portion of the vaccine in the past, then they will resume the series where they left off.

Q. I've heard that even with six shots, you would still need antibiotic treatment if exposed to the anthrax. How different is the reaction, if exposed, with or without the pre-immunization, using inhalation anthrax as an example?

A. The vaccine triggers your body to produce a supply of antibodies that are ready to help fight an anthrax infection before you are exposed. Without the vaccine, your body doesn't have these pre-formed antibodies and can't make them fast enough if you are exposed. The addition of antibiotics such as ciprofloxacin greatly improves survivability over the vaccine alone and helps you get better faster.

Q. If chem warfare gear is properly worn, how effective is it to protect against inhalation anthrax?

A. Chem warfare gear, when worn properly, is highly effective in preventing inhalation anthrax.

Q. If antibiotic treatment is necessary when exposed, would that be part of the chem warfare gear?

A. Antibiotics are not currently part of the chemical warfare gear. They are available to members traveling to high risk areas.

Q. If anthrax is introduced to an environment, how long does it remain potent once exposed to air?

A. That is difficult to answer because of a lot of variables. It is assumed that anthrax would somehow be discharged into the air in its spore form. These spores are very light and can be blown around by a light breeze or the fan in a ventilation system. Eventually they would settle to the ground (if outside) or on furniture and the floor (if indoors). As long as the spores could be "stirred up", they might be inhaled and cause disease. Rain would decrease exposure time and risk outside. Dry weather could extend exposure time and risk. In either case, the spore can remain dormant, yet still infective for many years.

Q. Why is BioPort the only U.S. supplier?

A. BioPort was and is the only company making the anthrax vaccine. Originally there was minimal demand for the vaccine. The only people receiving it were veterinarians, animal handlers, and scientists that were working with anthrax. Livestock were also being routinely vaccinated. The demand did not support more than one company producing the vaccine.

Since DOD decided that the military and support staff should be vaccinated, the demand has taken a sudden jump. It would be extremely expensive for another company to organize the staff, build the equipment, produce the vaccine, get FDA approval (which can take years by itself) for the product, and then convince DOD to come to them to buy the vaccine (instead of a company that has been making the vaccine since 1970).

By the time this new company did produce the vaccine in quantity, the demand might be back to pre-9/11 levels. This financial risk is what is probably keeping another company from producing the vaccine.

(This information was provided by Lt. Col. Joel S. Bogner, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron senior flight surgeon.)



Chemical, biological warfare evolves over the centuries

ROBINS AFB, Ga. — Biological and chemical weapons are hot topics lately, but they've been around for centuries in one form or another.

In the 6th century B.C., Assyrians supposedly poisoned enemy wells with rye ergot. Two thousand years later, the Tartar army improved upon the delivery system by catapulting plague-infested corpses over city walls in their attack of Kaffa.

Between then and now, the years have taught friend and foe how to perfect the delivery of deadlier biological and chemical weapons, as well as armed researchers and developers with bookshelves of knowledge about how to progress — or digress — in this type of warfare.

The following is a brief overview of biological and chemical warfare in the last 240 years:

•1763: During the French and Indian War, the British give smallpox-laden blankets to Native Americans loyal to the French.

•1914: The French begin using tear-gas grenades, and the Germans respond with tear-gas artillery shells.

•1915: The British army begins using the Livens projector, a mortar that can project shells holding 1.5 gallons of either chlorine or phosgene. German spies are rumored to have inoculated U.S. horses and cattle with disease-producing bacteria before they are shipped to allied countries.

•1917: After the development of gas masks, respiratory agents are largely defeated until the Germans introduce a blister agent, dichlorethyl sulfide, commonly known as mustard gas.

•1918: By the end of World War I, the combatants had developed 11 single agents and at least seven combinations of mustard gas. Chemical rounds account for a fourth of all munitions used and an estimated 82,000 casualties.

•1930s: Germany produces approximately 78,000 tons of chemical warfare agents, including 2,000 tons of nitrogen mustards.

•1937: Japan starts a biological warfare program in a laboratory complex code-named "Unit 731." At least 3,000 World War II prisoners from various countries, including America, allegedly are used as guinea pigs. More than a third of them are believed to have died from experiments involving anthrax, botulism, brucellosis, cholera and plague.

•1972: The United States and several other countries sign the Biological Weapons Convention prohibiting the stockpiling of biological agents for offensive military purposes. Despite this agreement among nations, biological warfare research continues to thrive in many countries hostile to the United States.

•1980s: The Cold War brings renewed threats of chemical warfare. The Defense Department concludes the Soviet Union has a military advantage because of its chemical capabilities. The Soviet Union is also suspected of working on biological weapons.

•1980-1988: Iraq is discovered using chemical agents — mustard gas and other nerve gas — in war with Iran.

HISTORY continued on page 5

Threat of area, tour length determine need for anthrax vaccination doses

by Kenny Pruitt
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs

ROBINS AFB, Ga. - Unless deployed to a high-threat area for more than 15 days, most Air Force reservists can expect to keep their sleeves rolled down after the Air Force distributed its anthrax implementation plan to commanders Oct. 11.

In a June 28 memorandum, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul D. Wolfowitz said active-duty people and emergency-essential DOD civilians, as well as members of reserve components who are deployed for more than 15 days to high-threat areas will be immunized.

In early 1998, BioPort, the only company making the vaccine, closed its facility for renovation. With the halt in production, supplies of the vaccine dwindled, and by 2000 the military had extensively slowed its vaccination program.

"It is important that all people whose duties are essential to mission-critical capabilities are vaccinated against anthrax for their personal protection and for success of the military mission," said CMSgt. Susan Glenn, individual mobilization augmentee to the director of medicine in the Pentagon's Office of the Air Force Reserve. "Immunizations will begin with designated special mission units and people involved in research and anthrax vaccine manufacturing."

U.S. intelligence agencies are keeping track of the locations where anthrax could or would be used as a biological war. Vaccinations will be mandatory for people in those high-threat areas if they are there for more than 15 consecutive days, except for those medically or administratively exempt, Glenn said.

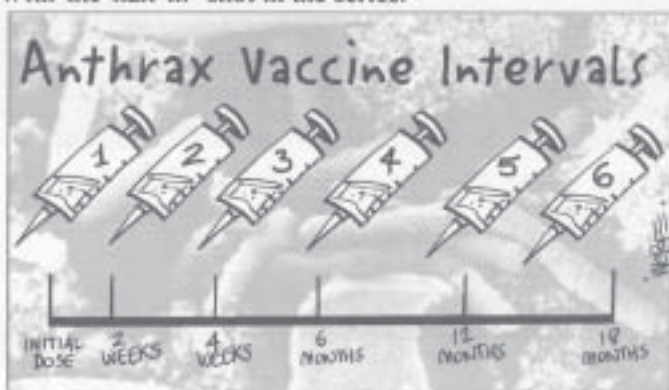
Higher-threat areas include countries primarily in Southwest Asia, said Maj.

Linda Bonnel of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

Full immunization with anthrax vaccine requires six doses administered over 18 months to complete the primary series. After the initial dose, shots are given at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months.

"There is no minimum number of shots required before deploying. Depending on the amount of time from notification to actual deployment, members would receive as many shots as possible," Glenn said. "Vaccine is or will be available at all forward deployed locations."

As for reservists who previously received vaccinations but didn't complete the series, Glenn said they will resume the immunization with the next shot in the series.



"If approved by their commander, an administrative exemption may be applicable for those retiring or separating within 180 days," Glenn said. "The exemption will not apply to personnel who the commander determines will receive the vaccine because of overriding mission requirements."

When reservists separate from the military before completion of the anthrax vaccine series, their vaccinations will cease. However, if recalled to military service, people who have not completed the vaccination series will continue the schedule with administration of the next dose in the series or booster.

(AFRC News Service)

HISTORY continued from page 4

-1991: After the Gulf War, Iraq discloses it loaded biological warfare agents in weapons immediately before the outbreak of the war. These weapons included 166 bombs, 25 Scud/

Al Hussein missile warheads and 122mm rockets, all loaded with anthrax, botulinum toxin or aflatoxin.

(AFRC News Service)

Web sites

www.anthrax.mil
www.bt.cdc.gov
www.afrc.af.mil
www.nap.edu/catalog/10310.html
www.anthrax.osd.mil/resource/qna/prod_issues.asp

General information

There will be an anthrax vaccine information session for all commanders and first sergeants on Dec. 6 at the wing conference center.

Unit-wide briefings will be held during the January A and B UTAs.

For more information on the anthrax vaccine, call the immunizations clinic at Ext. 2661.

Not just anthrax...

In addition to anthrax, several other biological and chemical weapons are available on the world market. They include:

- **Aflatoxins** or fungal toxins, potent carcinogens. Most symptoms take a long time to show. Food products contaminated by aflatoxins can cause liver inflammation and cancer. They can also affect pregnant women, leading to stillborn babies and children born with mutations.

- **Botulinum toxin**, one of the most toxic substances known to man. The first symptoms of poisoning may appear within one hour of exposure or take as long as eight days, with the incubation period being between 12 and 22 hours. Paralysis leads to death by suffocation.

- **Ricin**, derived from the castor bean and can cause multiple organ failure. The incubation period is 2-4 hours and can lead to death within one to four days of inhalation.

- **Sarin**, may be delivered as a colorless vapor with little or no odor. It is 26 times more deadly than cyanide gas and 20 times more lethal than potassium cyanide. This nerve agent can cause death within 10 minutes of inhalation.

- **Smallpox**, a serious, highly contagious and sometimes fatal infectious disease. There is no specific treatment for smallpox disease, and the only prevention is vaccination. In a terrorist attack, exposure could occur by breathing airborne virus. After the appearance of a rash, the infected person remains contagious until the last smallpox scab falls off.

(AFRC News Service)



LONG LOAD — A 42nd APS 60K loader eases the 109-foot fuselage of a RB-47E Stratojet into a Westover C-5A on Oct. 18. The mission to Hill AFB, Utah was the second airlift of the RB-47. The first

took the wings of the aircraft to Hill, where the RB-47 will be displayed at the base's Aerospace Museum.

Cold War RB-47 Stratojet flies final mission aboard C-5

Article and photo
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A 51-year-old Cold War military jet flew its last mission in a Westover C-5 in October.

Spectators on the flight line, including maintenance workers and local media, watched as a 60K loader driver, MSgt. Albert C. Hayford Jr., hauled the fuselage of the Boeing RB-47E Stratojet from Hangar 3 to a C-5. The mission was the second for Westover's C-5 crews. The first Galaxy took the wings of the Stratojet earlier in October. The C-5 aircrew flew the aircraft parts to an Air Force museum at Hill AFB, Utah.

As loadmasters guided the RB-47 fuselage into the C-5's gaping belly, Hayford and the other 42nd APS loaders gently slid the RB-47 into the Galaxy's fuselage. Weighing in at 35,490 pounds, the RB-47's 109-foot fuselage nearly took up the entire cargo deck of the giant airlifter.

One onlooker was working on the flight line during the loading. "I'm here covering the (C-5) launch anyway," said TSgt. Eric J. Sklarski, a Westover maintainer and military

aviation buff. "This is so neat. It's history. This was the biggest jet around then. Now it's getting loaded on our biggest jet transport today."

The RB-47 came from the Bradley Air Museum in Windsor Locks, Conn. Museum Director Michael Speciale said the jet arrived at Bradley International Airport in the mid-1970s and was on loan from the Air Force museum. A tornado heavily damaged the museum in 1979, including several of the display aircraft. The RB-47 sustained considerable damage. Speciale said there was no building large enough to protect it from Mother Nature's wicked ways. "The 47 deteriorated quite badly," he said.

Rather than watch the aircraft deteriorate any further, Speciale called retired Maj. Gen. Charles D. Metcalfe, director of the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, for help with relocating the jet. After the Hill museum agreed to restore the RB-47, Speciale contacted Westover about airlifting it to the Utah museum.

Workers took the Boeing jet apart at the Bradley museum in the summer of 2001. "It was amazing how they took it apart so fast," Speciale said.

Huge flatbed trucks brought the RB-47's wings and fuselage to the Dogpatch training area at Westover. However, Air Force mission requirements delayed the RB-47 airlift until this fall. Because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the jet's parts remained in storage at Dogpatch until October.

Maj. Ian S. Coogan, 337th Airlift Squadron pilot, was the aircraft commander for the second mission to Utah. "It went pretty smooth. It loaded pretty easily. It came out just as easily," he said.

At Hill, the C-5 aircrew received a warm reception from the RB-47's new caretakers. "The people at the Heritage Foundation were really nice to us," Coogan said. "They seemed pretty happy to get their airplane."

This RB-47, a reconnaissance version of the B-47 bomber, was built in 1951. The aircraft had a crew of three and was flown by the Strategic Air Command.

Speciale was sentimental - but pleased - about the RB-47 continuing its historic role at the Hill museum.

"It was a very important airplane," he said. "We needed to find a good home for it. We did."

SFS major heads to Hawaii sun for triathlon championship

by SrA. T.R. Ouellette

Competing in one of the world's most prestigious ironman contests, a Westover reservist finished with a time of 14 hours-13.13 seconds, at the Ironman Triathlon World Championship.

Maj. Elliot H. Graves, assigned to the 439th Security Forces as chief of anti-terrorism, learned first-hand why the event earned its reputation as being one of the most difficult ironman competitions.

"I've been in ironman competitions before, but this is only time I did not know for sure if I could finish. It was significantly tougher than I thought," Graves said.

All ironman contests involve swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles, and running the marathon-distance of 26.2 miles. But the World Championship, held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, involves swimming in rough waters, cycling through mountainous terrain against strong winds, and running under a hot sun where temperatures commonly exceed 90 degrees.

"We had to swim through 8 to 10-foot swells," Graves added. "On the bike, it rained the first 10 miles and then it quickly got sunny and hot. It was close to a 100 degrees."

Graves, a South Carolina native who came to Westover about a year ago, isn't complaining. "I'm happy that I had a respectable finish, which was my goal. I'm already making plans to return in the future. I will be back!" he said.



Graves

Twenty brave November UTA cold for 24th annual Turkey Trot

Article and photos

by SrA. T. R. Ouellette

Twenty runners braved winter-like conditions of gusty winds and below-freezing temperatures to compete in Westover's Annual Turkey Trot Race on Sunday of the November A UTA.

Seven different reservists emerged as champions in their respective categories from this year's races. The Turkey Trot has been a tradition at the base since 1978. Each winner won a Thanks-

giving turkey, the event's traditional prize.

In the women's 5-mile run, Sharon Riley cruised to victory with a time of 44:34. Tammy H. Vezina, at 25:46, triumphed in the women's 3-mile run.

The men's 3-mile run was broken down into three age categories: 30-39-year-olds, 40-49-year olds, and over-50. Luis Delgade won the 30-39-age bracket, with a time of 18:31. Bruce R. Lamay was victorious in the 40-49-category, with the time of 20:23. William O. McGhee took first in the over-50 bracket, finishing with a time of 23:06.

The Turkey Trot also had both men's and women's 3-mile walks. The top female was Lisa Robert, at 43:13. Ed Greenwood outpaced the competition with his time of 38:29.

RUN FOR A TURKEY — (Right) Luis Delgade finishes as the winner in the 30-39 age bracket of the men's 3-mile run; (left) Richard Cockley and Tammy Vezina head toward the finish line during the Turkey Trot.



The Junior Enlisted Advisory Council meets every Sunday of the A UTA at 9 a.m. in the support group conference room. Council members are the "eyes and ears" for squadron commanders and first sergeants and are represented by airmen basic through technical sergeants. Members monitor quality of life issues for reservists at Westover. Each squadron has a representative appointed to the council.

Wing to recognize winners at December commander's call

The 439th Airlift Wing recently announced its annual award winners for 2002. A board of officers and senior NCOs chose six nominees narrowed down from 21. Each will be recognized during the December Commander's Call at the Base Hangar.

First Lt. Shawn E. Swarz, 439th Security Forces Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year. Swarz is a squadron flight leader. He has been assigned to Westover since June 1999.



Swarz

CMSgt. Owen ("Chip") F. Connolly, 439th Airlift Wing Plans Office, Senior NCO of the Year. Connolly is the wing logistics plans superintendent and has been at Westover since 1974. Connolly served as the wing staff supply NCOIC while on active duty with the 99th Bomb Wing here from 1972-74.



Connolly

TSgt. Paul E. Cyr, 439th SFS, NCO of the Year. Cyr is a security forces journeyman with the squad-

ron. He has been assigned to Westover since May 2000.

SrA. Tracy L. Notto, 439th ASTS, Airman of the Year. Notto, whose photo was unavailable, is a health services management journeyman with the squadron. She has been at Westover since October 2000.



Cyr



Dodge

Freeman P. Wiley Jr., 439th SPTG, Civilian Supervisor of the Year. Wiley has been the executive officer for the support group for five years.

David B. Dodge, 439th SFS, Civilian of the Year. Dodge runs the pass and registration desk at the squadron. He has been at Westover since 1987. Dodge was assigned to the base as an air policeman from 1963-1964.



Wiley

AF personnel reminded to use care when speaking to media

While there are many unknowns regarding possible military action in the Middle East, it's safe to say the amount of news coverage and speculation in the media regarding a potential conflict will not subside.

As a result, Westover airmen will likely encounter increasing interaction with the area media as the news organizations try to localize national stories by speaking to base people, said Gordon A. Newell, 439th Airlift Wing chief of public affairs.

With the increased interest from the media comes an increased responsibility on every airman to ensure accurate and appropriate communication. This issue was recently addressed in a letter to all commanders from William C. Bodie, the director of Air Force Communications. In the letter, Bodie lauded the effort Air Force members have made to

reach out to the press and public about the mission and our people. He noted, however, that recently Air Force sources have been quoted providing personal opinion on operational issues, U.S. government policy and global political-military issues.

To ensure people are appropriately engaging the media, Bodie provided some guidelines:

■ **Stay in your lane.** Airmen should feel free to speak about their own area of expertise, systems, goals and people while always protecting classified information.

■ **Don't speculate on policy or national strategy.** Rather than expressing personal views, Bodie says airmen should defer to those who set policy.

■ **Never give out sensitive or classified information.**

"We have a great story to tell and it's imperative that we tell our story to our people, our communities and our civilian leaders to obtain public trust and support," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "However, we need to be responsible in how we tell our story. Following these guidelines will ensure that happens."

Mazick said there haven't been any specific problems with Westover reservists speaking out of turn during recent media coverage of the activation and demobilization.

"Our people clearly know Public Affairs is the central point of contact for any media interest and are appropriately briefed prior to granting an interview request," he said. "We do, however, need to always reinforce the need to follow these guidelines in our dealings with the press."



ESGR tours C-5

WHAT WE DO HERE — Retired CMSgt. Vic Viglione, a base tour volunteer, explains the Westover mission to members of the Massachusetts State Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Before the group held their quarterly meeting at Westover on Oct. 17, it met with Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, and toured a C-5.

— photo by Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger

Patriot People

Name: Michael P. Grady
Rank: SMSgt.
Age: 39
Address: Stoneham, Mass.
Unit: 439th Security Forces Squadron
Position: Operations superintendent
Civilian position: Massachusetts Environmental Police Officer
Favorite food: Italian
Years of service: 18
Favorite sport: Soccer
Favorite hobby: Turkey hunting
Ideal vacation: Travel Europe
Best way to relax: Fishing
Preferred entertainment: Small concerts
Favorite hero: My father
Favorite music: Traditional Irish
Favorite movie: The Quiet Man
Favorite aircraft: A-10
Pet peeve: People who don't pull their weight
What would I do if I won \$1 million: Invest wisely, donate to worthy charities and take care of my family.



photo by MSgt. Tom Albrecht

SMSgt. Michael P. Grady

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Flynn, Arthur F., Jr.
 CMSgt. Kudla, George J.
 CMSgt. Lausier, Sharon L.
 CMSgt. Vezina, Tammy H.
 SMSgt. Hayward, Douglas M.
 SMSgt. King, Kenneth B.
 SMSgt. Tryba, Bradley S.
 SMSgt. Wiehe, Elton W., Jr.
 SMSgt. Wolff, Kenneth P.
 MSgt. Aube, Tracie A.
 MSgt. Barton, Ronald L.
 MSgt. Clegg, Nancy C.
 MSgt. Cronin, James P.
 MSgt. Ferry, James H.
 MSgt. Gerrans, Glen D.
 MSgt. Goncalo, John W.
 MSgt. Herbert, Harry T.
 MSgt. Housley, Deborah S.
 MSgt. Leveault, David E.
 MSgt. MacDougald, Kenneth
 MSgt. McGraw, Robert J., Jr.
 MSgt. Pare, Donald R.
 MSgt. Sneed, Robert R., Jr.
 MSgt. Vadnais, Donald J.
 TSgt. Atkinson, Russell J., Jr.
 TSgt. Brown, Edward A.
 TSgt. Carter, Randy S.
 TSgt. Coleman, Warren E.
 TSgt. Companik, Michael E.
 TSgt. Crouch, Helen L.
 TSgt. Daniels, Thomas J.
 TSgt. Dutton, David B.
 TSgt. Falcone, Michael P.
 TSgt. Ferriter, Lawrence J., Jr.
 TSgt. Kirton, Floyd M. A.
 TSgt. Gaudet, Matthew P.
 TSgt. Hickson, Michael T.
 TSgt. Hilario, Pedro A., Jr.
 TSgt. Laroche, Edward F.
 TSgt. Moreland, Michael S.
 TSgt. Mutia, Wendell B.O., Jr.
 TSgt. Niemiec, Joseph

TSgt. Paradis, Bruce W.
 TSgt. Perreault, Elaine J.
 TSgt. Ritchens, Euclid B.
 TSgt. Simpkins, Dale L.
 TSgt. Syriac, Phillip M.
 TSgt. Talbert, Martin A.
 TSgt. Theroux, Mark R.
 TSgt. Tuller, Eric W.
 TSgt. Vargus, William F.
 TSgt. Villarreal, Silas P.
 TSgt. Wilson, Reginald L.
 SSgt. Baca, Christopher E.
 SSgt. Blake, Kevin Robert
 SSgt. Brazee, Lloyd William
 SSgt. Carey, Paul J.
 SSgt. Ford, Daniel Roy
 SSgt. Hodgdon, Sean M.
 SSgt. Hutchinson, Karen M.
 SSgt. Lacombe, Daniel P.
 SSgt. McGann, Linda M.
 SSgt. Moats, Jayson E.
 SSgt. Parker, Scott W.
 SSgt. Parson, Edward
 SSgt. Peach, Douglas William
 SSgt. Peterman, Bret A.
 SSgt. Risley, Donald Edward
 SSgt. Rivet, Dawn M.
 SSgt. Robinson, Kenneth J.
 SSgt. Salvatore, Santo A.
 SSgt. Scherlin, Marylynn
 SSgt. Susty, Ian Mark
 SSgt. Theriault, Scott T.
 SSgt. Watkins, Johnie R., Jr.
 SSgt. Watson, Kenneth Lee
 SSgt. Velez, Ricardo
 SrA. Adams, Mark A.
 SrA. Ayusorivera, Carlos
 SrA. Baker, Matthew B.
 SrA. Branco, Anthony D.
 SrA. Burwell, John M.
 SrA. Cruz, Moises Abel
 SrA. Falcon, Arjel Raul
 SrA. Fern, Patrick John
 SrA. Gladding, Kenneth William

SrA. Goodfellow, David E.
 SrA. Kennally, Paul Edward III
 SrA. Lucas, John Jude
 SrA. Oparowski, Michele T.
 SrA. Pernisi, Alicia M.
 SrA. Praga, Albert Dominick
 SrA. Rogers, Timothy Michael
 SrA. Shameklis, Brian J.
 SrA. Sutton, Timothy G., Jr.
 SrA. Taylor, Scott M.
 SrA. Van Reil, Natasha J.

A1C Rowlett, James R.
 A1C Schmitt, Michael P.
 A1C Smith, Desman L.A.
 A1C Suslovic, Brandi L.
 A1C Valentine, James S.
 Amn. Biancardi, Sharon
 AB Cornwell, Owen B.
 AB Lanza, Michael S.
 AB Orcutt, Daniel C.

Newly Assigned:

Capt. Brule, Mark T.
 TSgt. Stagg, Ronald A., Sr.
 SSgt. Doyle, Timothy R.
 SrA. Baker, Matthew B.
 SrA. Steele, Robert Q.

NCO Academy Graduates:

TSgt. Brice, Belitza M.
 TSgt. Ferreira, Charles A., Jr.

Enlistments:

A1C Chambers-Mahar, Benjamin R.
 A1C Cohen, Miriam C.
 A1C Downer, Meegai R.
 A1C Fonseca, Joshua A.
 A1C Fuller, Ellerie L.
 A1C Grant, Ashley L.
 A1C Green, Derek M.
 A1C Hinchcliffe, John S., Jr.
 A1C Leger, James F.
 A1C Lyman, William E.
 A1C Mitchell, Jason A.
 A1C Pierre-Charles, Jeffrey

CCAF Graduates, October 2002:

MSgt. Linda S. Colucci 439 OSS
 MSgt. Constance Cullen 439 OSS
 MSgt. Stephen E. Kida 439 AGS
 TSgt. Michael J. Downs 42 APS
 TSgt. Charlene K. Delesline 439 MXS
 TSgt. Brian A. Markelonis 439 AES
 TSgt. Paul E. Marsters 439 OSS
 TSgt. John Monopoli 439 MSS
 TSgt. Elaine J. Perreault 439 MSS
 TSgt. Robert R. Sinclair 439 AGS
 SSgt. Daniel J. Foye, Jr. 439 AMDS
 SrA. Michael J. Jester 439 CES

'Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!' - Westover has a plan

The Westover Snow Removal Plan is in effect. It provides guidance for the removal of snow and the control of ice from the airfield, roadways, parking lots and sidewalk areas to ensure the 439th Airlift Wing has the capability to support the mission requirements and the needs of tenant organizations.

Snow removal and ice control priorities which Griffin Services has responsibility for are as follows:

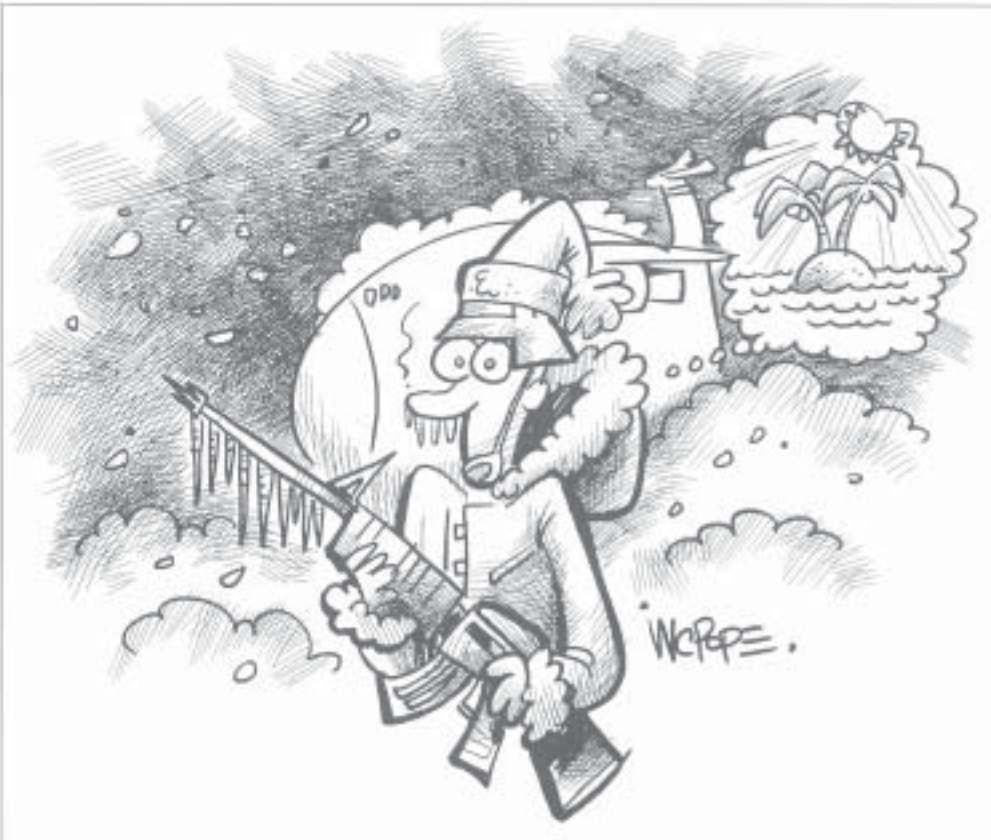
- Primary runways, overruns, taxiways, aprons, Base Fire Station, fire vehicle access road, Bldg. 7040 and Echos 9 and 10 are Priority I.
- Primary base roads and streets, security check points, main parking areas such as Security Police, Communications Center and emergency parking lots are Priority II.
- Secondary base roads streets, employee parking lots are Priority III.

The building facility manager will accomplish Snow removal from the following areas:

- Sidewalks, 25 feet from facility
- Fire hydrants
- Entrance and steps to facility
- Loading and ramp areas

The building facility manager will also remove, store and replace temporary security barriers and inform facility personnel of parking and snow removal procedures.

Further information is available from Paul Gilman, Quality Assurance Evaluator, at Ext. 2426.



Base closure notices to be broadcast

- WWLP, Channel 22
- WGGB, Channel 40
- WTIC AM/FM (Hartford, Conn.)
- WMAS FM (Springfield)
- WHYN (Springfield)

PATRIOT

PATRIOT online: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw>



439th AWIPA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Albert W. Nothe, from Monson, Mass., and the 2,574 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.